

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7, 13, 19-28 and 32-26 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 29-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. Claims 1-3, 7, 13, and 32-26 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 13, 19-28 and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bergman (USP 6,005,971). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The Examiner further objected to claims 32-36 based on minor informalities.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 29-31 include allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 32 and 33 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 29. Applicant has further amended claims 3 and 34 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 30. Applicant has further amended claims 7, 13, 35 and 36 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 31. Based on these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in proper form for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No.

Application No. 09/707,948
Amendment dated May 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 8, 2008

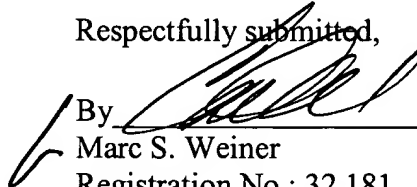
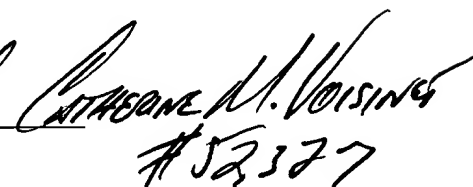
Docket No.: 0879-0289P

52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  
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